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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SAIGON BUREAU

AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON, VIETNAM

APO 143
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

4 February 1964

TO: Chief, FBIS
FROM: Chief, Saigon Bureau
SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report - January 1964

I. GENERAL

South Vietnam's military coup of 30 January went off so smoothly and quietly that it had little effect on the daily lives of Bureau personnel. At the office, there was no marked increase in filing of material from Radio Saigon -- which was just as well, since communications were very poor and [] was out of the country on leave. There are many who believe that in a matter of days or weeks another, less peaceable coup will be effected.

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Cholera reached epidemic proportions during the month, following diagnosis of the first case on 7 January. Public health experts report that the GVN has not been entirely frank in its announced statistics, which cover only cases in the major hospitals. The experts feel the epidemic is now under control, even though the peak is yet to come, in late February.

No American has contracted the disease; all are advised to renew their cholera immunizations every three months instead of six. FBIS local employees received free immunizations from a U.S. medical team, while their dependents obtained free shots at GVN installations.

II. OPERATIONS

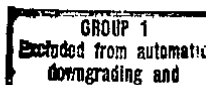
A. Monitorial

Total publishable wordage filed reached 200,000, the second month in a row this level has been approximated.

Cambodian monitor [] passed with high honors from grade 10 to 11 in the English-language courses of the Vietnamese-American Association. Grade 12, which

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he should complete this summer, is the senior grade. Cambodian monitor [] is also making very significant progress in English.

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A total of 154 hours of voice broadcasts weekly were being covered at the end of the month.

B. Communications

Severe outages, both incoming and outgoing, occurred during the latter half of the month. They were caused in part by generally unfavorable reception conditions, and in part by dislocations attendant on the move of STARCOM Saigon from MAAG Headquarters to Phu Lam, a district on the edge of Saigon. Formerly we were connected to STARCOM Saigon's relay point via landline and, technically, VHF, although the latter was rarely utilized. Now we will be connected only by VHF, and once the inevitable and frustrating shakedown period is over our communications should be improved.

Improvement is also expected from the fact that the Embassy teletype unit has installed a new Kleinschmidt teleprinter, with a second one soon to be installed. The printers will operate at 60 wpm for the time being, but 100-wpm operation is planned for the future.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Buildings and Grounds

A shift in FBIS office space will occur in the next few days as a result of the move of Station offices to our floor in the Embassy annex. We will gain some sorely-needed space; we will give up only the large monitoring room (12' x 24') in exchange for three average-size rooms (12' x 16'). We will retain the two 12' x 16' rooms we have had; and the offices will thus consist of five equal rooms extending from the elevator straight back. For reasons of Station security we will have only one entrance. The console will remain where it is. A floor plan will be forwarded later.

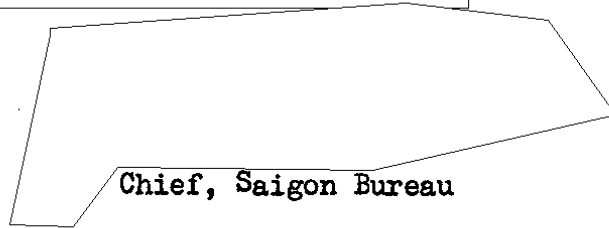
IV. VISITS

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Chief, Saigon Bureau

Attachments:

1. Classified Personnel Report
2. Foreign Personnel Report
3. Broadcast Coverage Report

cc: Okinawa, Tokyo bureaus

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SAIGON BUREAU BROADCAST COVERAGE SCHEDULE FOR 1 FEBRUARY 1964

Cambodia

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| French | Phnom Penh | is | 0515-0530 | daily | daily | good | 1 |
| " | " " | is | 2315-2330 | " | " | fair | 1 |
| English | " " | is | 0530-0600 | " | " | fair | 1 |
| Cambodian | " " | ds | 0700-0715 | " | " | fair | 1 |
| " | " " | ds | 2300-2315 | " | " | poor | 1 |

China (Communist)

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| Lao | Peking | is | 0000-0030 | daily | daily | good | 1 |
| " | " | is | 1100-1130 | " | " | good | 4 |
| " | " | is | 1300-1400 | " | " | good | 1 |
| Cambodian | " | is | 1200-1300 | " | " | good | 1 |
| Thai | " | is | 1130-1200 | " | " | good | 1 |
| " | " | is | 2330-0000 | " | " | good | 1 |
| Malay | " | is | 1000-1030 | " | " | good | 1 |

Clandestine Stations

Radio Pathet Lao

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| Lao | 0030-0100 | daily | daily | fair | 2 |
| French | 0100-0115 | " | " | fair | 2 |
| Lao | 0415-0445 | " | " | poor | 1 |

Radio of the Laotian Kingdom

| | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| Lao | 0500-0600 | daily | daily | fair | 1 |
| Lao/French | 2315-0015 | " | " | fair | 1 |

Radio of the Neutralist Party

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| Lao | 0500-0630 | daily | daily | poor | 2 |
|-----|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|

Liberation Broadcasting Station

| | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------|--------|------|---|
| Vietnamese | 0500-0530 | daily | daily | fair | 1 |
| " (D) | 0530-0600 | " | " | fair | 3 |
| " | 1130-1200 | " | not Su | poor | 2 |
| " | 1300-1330 | " | " " | poor | 2 |

Voice of the Movement for Neutral and Nationalist South Vietnam

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| Vietnamese/Cambodian/French | 0000-0100 | daily | daily | good | 1 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|

Voice of the Movement for Independent Neutral and Nationalist Thailand

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------|-------|--------|------|---|
| Thai | 0100-0130 | daily | not Su | good | 2 |
|------|-----------|-------|--------|------|---|

Voice of Khmer Serei

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| Cambodian/French | | | 0500-0600 | daily | daily | poor | 2 |
| " | " | | 2300-0000 | " | " | poor | 2 |

Indonesian

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----|-----------|-------|--------|------|---|
| Mandarin | Djakarta | is | 0030-0100 | daily | not SS | fair | 2 |
|----------|----------|----|-----------|-------|--------|------|---|

Laos

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| Lao/French | Vientiane | ds | 0630-0700 | daily | daily | good | 1 |
| Lao | " | ds | 2330-0100 | " | " | good | 1 |

Malaysia

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|----|-----------|-------|--------|------|---|
| English | Kuala Lumpur | is | 0000-0015 | daily | not Su | fair | 2 |
| " | Kuching | ds | 1100-1115 | " | " ThF | poor | 2 |
| Indonesian | Kuala Lumpur | is | 0800-0810 | " | " ThF | good | 2 |
| Malay | " | ds | 0600-0615 | " | " ThF | fair | 2 |
| " | Jesselton | ds | 1130-1145 | " | " ThF | poor | 2 |

Vietnam (North)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|---------|------|---|
| Vietnamese (D) | Hanoi VNA | ds | 0145-0345 | daily | daily | good | 2 |
| " | " | s viet. | 0400-0415 | " | " | fair | 1 |
| " | " | ds | 0445-0515 | " | " | fair | 1 |
| " (D) | " VNA | ds | 0830-0900 | " | not SS | fair | 2 |
| " | " | ds | 1100-1130 | " | " Su | good | 2 |
| " | " | s viet. | 1200-1230 | " | " Su | good | 2 |
| " | " | s viet. | 1400-1430 | not Sa | " SS | fair | 2 |
| Rhade, Jarai | " | s viet. | 0345-0415 | TTh | TTh | fair | 2 |
| " " | " | s viet. | 1130-1200 | MF | MF | fair | 2 |
| French | " | is | 0415-0430 | daily | ThF | fair | 2 |
| English | " | is | 0430-0445 | " | not ThF | fair | 2 |
| " | " | is | 1000-1030 | " | F | poor | 2 |

Vietnam (South)

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|----|-----------|-------|-------|------|---|
| VIETNAM PRESS AGENCY twice-daily (Sunday, one) bulletins covered by scrutiny | | | | | | | |
| English | Saigon | is | 0500-0515 | daily | daily | good | 2 |
| " | " | is | 1300-1320 | " | " | good | 3 |
| " | " | is | 2330-2345 | " | " | good | 2 |
| Vietnamese | " | ds | 0430-0445 | " | " | good | 1 |
| " | " | ds | 0900-0915 | " | " | good | 1 |
| " | " | ds | 2300-2305 | " | " | good | 1 |